

AVATAR

The Last Airbender

Show #112

BOOK ONE: WATER
CHAPTER TWELVE: "The Storm"

Written by

Aaron Ehasz

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ACT ONE

AANG'S DREAM

EXT. SKY - DAY

Aang smiles as he rides Appa through clear skies. He looks to his left, and smiles at Sokka, who is flying beside Appa on Aang's glider. He looks to his right, and smiles at Katara, who is flying beside him on an Appa-sized Momo.

KATARA
We need you, Aang.

AANG
(smiles)
I need you, too.

Suddenly, he sees grey storm clouds up ahead in the distance. Worried, he pulls on Appa's reins.

AANG (cont'd)
Be careful, guys.
(beat)
Guys?

He looks to his left, and to his right -- Sokka and Katara have disappeared. Suddenly, Monk Gyatso eerily floats down in front of Aang, sitting in a lotus position, his eyes closed.

AANG (cont'd)
Gyatso?

GYATSO
Why did you disappear?

AANG
I didn't mean to--

Suddenly, Gyatso dissolves into thin air and blows away into the wind. Aang looks forward again, and the cloud that was in the distance is suddenly right in front of him. He flies right into it, and is immersed in dense, grey cloud.

Aang gets Appa to accelerate through the blinding greyness. When they suddenly emerge, they are in the middle of a driving storm. (This portion of the dream should use a lot of identical shots from Aang's nightmare in episode 1.01.) Aang and Appa are pelted by rain and wind in the middle of the storm.

Aang and Appa crash into the raging ocean. They struggle to stay afloat in the towering waves, but the waves' surging force quickly pulls them under.

GYATSO (V.O.)
We need you, Aang.

KATARA/GYATSO/SOKKA (V.O.)
We need you, Aang./ We need you./
We need you, Aang./ We need you.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPSITE - 4 A.M.

Aang wakes suddenly, startling Momo, who was sleeping on his chest. Momo scrambles off, jumping onto Katara and Sokka on his way, and waking them too. The three bolt upright consecutively.

AANG
(JOLTING AWAKE NOISE)

KATARA
(STARTLED AWAKE NOISE)

SOKKA
(STARTLED AWAKE NOISE)

MOMO
(CHITTERS)

SOKKA
(groggy)
What's going on? Did we get
captured again?

AANG
It's nothing, I just had a bad
dream. Go back to bed.

Aang lies back down, and turns away from them.

SOKKA
Don't have to tell me twice.

Sokka settles back in and closes his eyes. Katara looks at Aang, a bit worried.

KATARA
Are you alright, Aang?

AANG

I'm okay.

KATARA

You seem to be having a lot of nightmares lately -- you want to tell me about it?

AANG

I think I just need some rest.

There's a beat.

SOKKA

You guys want to hear about my dream?

No answer.

SOKKA (cont'd)

That's okay, I didn't want to talk about it anyway.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMPSITE - NEXT MORNING

Everyone is packing up camp. As Appa yawns, Aang looks up at the sky, and sees a SQUAWKING FORMATION OF GEESE.

AANG

(to Appa)

Look at those clear skies, buddy.
Should be some smooth flying.

Katara SHAKES the last few crumbs out of a food bag. Momo runs over and quickly collects the crumbs for himself.

KATARA

Well, we better smoothly fly ourselves to a market, because we're out of food.

They load the last of their things on Appa, and climb aboard. Sokka looks at Momo.

SOKKA

Guys wait. This was in my dream -- we shouldn't go to the market.

KATARA

What happened in your dream?

SOKKA
Food eats people.

Katara gives him a funny look and shakes her head.

SOKKA (cont'd)
Also Momo could talk.
(to Momo, a bit hurt)
You said some very unkind things.

MOMO
(CHITTERS)

CUT TO:

EXT. ZUKO'S BOAT - MORNING

Uncle Iroh stands out on the deck, and Zuko is nearby. It's the same kind of beautiful day the kids were experiencing. The same formation of SQUAWKING GEESE fly by. Uncle's nostrils widen, and he INHALES deeply.

UNCLE
There is a storm coming. A big one.

ZUKO
You're out of your mind, Uncle!
The weather's perfect. There's not a cloud in sight.

UNCLE
A storm is approaching from the north. I suggest we alter our course and head southwest.

ZUKO
We know the Avatar is travelling northward -- so we will do the same.

UNCLE
Prince Zuko, consider the safety of the crew.

ZUKO
The safety of the crew doesn't matter--
(stopping suddenly)

Zuko realizes one of his men, LIEUTENANT JEE has just come on deck and overheard this. It's awkward for a moment, then Zuko marches up to Lt. Jee, and looks him in the eye.

ZUKO (cont'd)
Finding the Avatar is far more
important than any individual's
safety.

Zuko enters the ship. Uncle turns to Lt. Jee, who is miffed.

UNCLE
He doesn't mean that. He's just
all worked up.

CUT TO:

EXT. PORT MARKET - DAY

The kids shop at a marketplace on the coast. There is a pier going out into the water, at which a few boats are docked. Sokka has a few items in a basket, and Katara is holding a melon in her hands. The merchant impatiently waits as Katara eyes it warily, and SQUEEZES the surface.

FRUIT MERCHANT
Aye, It's good! It's perfect, I'm
telling you.

But Katara is not so sure. She holds it up to her ear, and SHAKES it. We hear liquid SWISHING inside the melon.

KATARA
I don't know if I like the sound of
that swishing.

FRUIT MERCHANT
Swishing means it's ripe! It's the
ripe juices swishing around.

AANG
I think it's true, Katara--
swishing means it's ripe.

She puts the melon down.

KATARA
I just realized we're out of money,
anyway.

The merchant snatches a basket of oranges from Sokka's hands. Katara, Aang, and Sokka regroup and the merchant gives Sokka a swift kick in the pants as he passes by.

SOKKA
Out of food and out of money -- now
what are we supposed to do?!

KATARA

You could get a job, smart guy.

Just then, a CRUSTY FISHERMAN brushes by them, followed by the FISHERMAN'S WIFE. She grabs and stops him for a moment.

FISHERMAN'S WIFE

We shouldn't go out there! Please,
the fish can wait, there's going to
be a terrible storm!

Aang overhears this and opens his eyes wide, like he's been given an electric shock.

CRUSTY FISHERMAN

You're crazy! It's a nice day, no
clouds, no wind, no nothin'. So
quit yer naggin', woman.

Aang turns to Katara and Sokka.

AANG

Maybe we should find some shelter.

SOKKA

Are you kidding?
(gestures at sky)
Shelter from what?

Aang looks concerned.

FISHERMAN'S WIFE

My joints say there is going to be
a storm! A bad one!

CRUSTY FISHERMAN

Well it's your joints against my
brain!

The fisherman's wife stops and folds her arms stubbornly.

FISHERMAN'S WIFE

Then I hope your brain can find
someone else to haul that fish,
'cause I ain't comin'!

CRUSTY FISHERMAN

Then I'll find a new fish hauler
and pay 'em double what you get.
How you like that?

Sokka steps forward.

SOKKA
I'll go.

CRUSTY FISHERMAN
You're hired.

Everyone including Katara and Aang looks surprised.

SOKKA
(to Katara)
What? You said get a job. And
he's paying double!

CRUSTY FISHERMAN
Double?! Who told you that
nonsense?

EXT. ZUKO'S BOAT - DAY

Uncle, Lt. Jee, and a few of the men are on the deck when Zuko comes out. The skies are definitely growing DARKER.

LT. JEE
Huh, it looks like your Uncle was
right about the storm, after all.

UNCLE
(playing it down)
Lucky guess!

Uncle tries to signal Jee that he should let this drop, but it is too late. Zuko gets in Jee's face.

ZUKO
Lieutenant, you had better learn
some respect -- or I will teach it
to you.

Zuko turns to leave. Uncle again signals Jee to keep quiet but--

LT. JEE
What do you know about respect?

Zuko stops in his tracks, but doesn't turn around.

LT. JEE (cont'd)
The way you talk to everyone around
here, from your hardworking crew,
to your esteemed Uncle, shows you
know nothing about respect.
(MORE)

LT. JEE(cont'd)

You don't care about anyone but
yourself. Then again, what should
I expect from a spoiled prince?

Zuko turns around. His eyes narrow to a fierce GLARE at Lt. Jee. He marches towards him. When Zuko reaches him, the other men stand up behind Jee -- it is clear that if Zuko throws a blow, it will be mutiny.

UNCLE

Easy, now...

But neither Zuko or Jee back down, and neither breaks his stare. Suddenly they both BEGIN ATTACK MOVES. But before the blows land, Uncle gets between them and skillfully stops both moves at the root.

UNCLE (cont'd)

Enough. We are all a bit tired
from being at sea so long. I'm
sure after a bowl of noodles,
everyone will feel much better.

Lt. Jee turns his back and walks away.

ZUKO

I don't need your help keeping
order on my ship, Uncle.

Uncle puts his hands on Zuko's shoulders but he shrugs them off and walks away.

UNCLE

(hurt)
Uughh.

EXT. DOCK - DAY

Sokka helps the fisherman load some equipment onto his fishing boat. The sky is darkening.

AANG

Sokka, maybe this isn't such a good
idea. Look at the sky.

SOKKA

I said I was going to do this job.
I can't back out just because of
some bad weather.

Sokka picks up a box of tools and heads below deck.

FISHERMAN'S WIFE
(to crusty fisherman)
The boy with the tattoos has some
sense! You should listen to him.

She storms off. The fisherman turns, suddenly very
interested.

CRUSTY FISHERMAN
Boy with tattoos...
(looks Aang up and down)
Airbender tattoos... well I'll be a
hog monkey's uncle. You're the
Avatar, ain't ya?

KATARA
That's right!

CRUSTY FISHERMAN
Well don't be so smiley about it!
The Avatar disappeared for a
hundred years!
(to Aang)
You turned your back on the
world...

The fisherman points an accusing finger at Aang, who takes a
step backwards, caught off guard.

KATARA
Don't yell at him! Aang would
never turn his back on anyone.

CRUSTY FISHERMAN
Oh, he wouldn't, huh? Then I guess
I must've imagined the last hundred
years of war and suffering.

Behind Aang's eyes, an interior storm brews.

KATARA
Aang is the bravest person I know.
He has done nothing but help people
and save lives since I met him.
It's not his fault he disappeared.
Right, Aang?

She turns to Aang. Aang slowly backs away.

KATARA (cont'd)
What's wrong?

Suddenly, Aang whips out his glider and flies off. Momo follows.

CRUSTY FISHERMAN
That's right, keep flyin'!

KATARA
You're a horrible old man!

She climbs on Appa and flies off after Aang.

KATARA (cont'd)
Appa, yip-yip.

Sokka emerges from below deck and sees them flying off.

SOKKA
(to Crusty Fisherman)
Hey, they left without saying
goodbye.

CRUSTY FISHERMAN
Your friends ain't too polite, are
they?

SOKKA
I know. This one time I was--

CRUSTY FISHERMAN
Yeah, yeah, yeah. Get below deck.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT. SKY - DAY**

Katara rides Appa through the rain, to a CAVE in the side of a CLIFF.

INT. CLIFFSIDE CAVE - DAY

As she enters the cave, Aang is there, sitting with his back to the mouth of the cave.

AANG
I'm sorry for running away...

KATARA
It's okay. That fisherman was way out of line.

AANG
Actually, he wasn't.

KATARA
What do you mean?

Aang doesn't answer for a beat. We can really hear the rain picking up outside.

AANG
I don't want to talk about it.

KATARA
It has to do with your dream, doesn't it?

Another beat. Katara kneels down and puts a hand on Aang's shoulder, comforting him.

KATARA (cont'd)
Talk to me.

AANG
Well... it's kind of a long story.

As if on cue, Appa sits down. Katara SHIVERS.

KATARA
I'm going to try to get a little fire going.

As Katara starts to put stones in a circle to improvise a fire pit, Aang huddles up near Appa for warmth. Momo huddles up under Aang's arm.

AANG
I'll never forget the day the monks
told me I was the Avatar...

DISSOLVE TO:

AANG'S FLASHBACK:

EXT. AIR TEMPLE - DAY

AANG (V.O.)
I was playing with some other kids
just outside the south wall. I was
trying to teach them how to do the
"air scooter".

We see Aang and a few other kids, some slightly younger, some slightly older. (They are playing next to a bridge. The bridge looks like an inverted "half-pipe", perfect for air scooter tricks. The other kids listen to Aang.

AANG (cont'd)
First you form the ball... then you
gotta get on quick!

Aang demonstrates, making an air-sphere scooter, and doing a cool trick, he rides the inside of the bridge as if he is on an upsidedown ramp. Aang then leaps onto the top of the bridge and rail-slides down a set of stairs back to the ground.

AANG (cont'd)
(EXCITED YELLS)

Another kid tries.

OLDER KID
Okay, here goes...

He does a move to make an air-sphere...

AANG
Quick, get on!

He tries, but just spins in place until he is shot off. The kid falls on his butt.

AANG (cont'd)
You kind of have to balance on it
like it's a top.

OLDER KID
Man, that's hard!

YOUNGER KID
Where'd you learn that trick, Aang?

AANG
I made it up.

YOUNGER KID
Wow.

Just then, Monk GYATSO comes down the stairs, accompanied by a few monks, including DOUR MONK and SENIOR MONK. Gyatso smiles comfortingly.

GYATSO
Aang... come with us. We need to speak with you.

Everyone looks at Aang. Something's up.

INT. AIR TEMPLE - MONKS' MEETING ROOM - DAY

Aang has an uneasy look on his face.

AANG
(in shock)
How do you know it's me?

DOUR MONK
We have known you were the Avatar for some time. Do you remember these?

The monk spreads out an assortment of RELICS before Aang on a blanket.

AANG
Those were some of my favorite toys when I was little...

DOUR MONK
You chose them from among thousands of toys, Aang. The toys you picked... were the four Avatar relics. These items belonged to Avatars past... your own past lives.

AANG

I just chose them because they seemed fun.

DOUR MONK

You chose them because they were familiar.

GYATSO

Normally, we would have told you of your identity when you turned sixteen. But there are troubling signs. Storm clouds are gathering...

SENIOR MONK

I fear that war may be upon us, young Avatar.

GYATSO

We need you, Aang.

Off Aang's reaction.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE PRESENT

INT. ZUKO'S BOAT - FURNACE ROOM - DAY

It's raining outside. Lt. Jee and a few other men are sitting at a table near the furnace drinking and GRUMBLING.

LT. JEE

(to the others)

I'm sick of taking his orders, and I'm tired of chasing his Avatar. I mean, who does Zuko think he is?

We hear a voice.

UNCLE (O.S.)

Do you really want to know?

Uncle appears in the doorway.

LT. JEE

(caught off guard)

General Iroh! We were just--

UNCLE

It's okay. May I join you?

LT. JEE
Of course, sir.

Uncle sits down with them.

UNCLE
Try to understand: my nephew is a
complicated young man. He has been
through much.

DISSOLVE TO:

IROH'S FLASHBACK

INT. HALL OUTSIDE FIRE NATION WAR CHAMBER

A number of important looking Fire Nation generals and admirals enter the war planning chamber. Prince Zuko (age 14 -- slightly younger looking, different hair, no scar) tries to enter but is stopped by a guard. Zuko protests.

ZUKO
Let me in!

Zuko tries to push past him, but the guard grabs him. Uncle Iroh comes and intervenes.

UNCLE
Prince Zuko, what's wrong?

ZUKO
I want to go into the War Chamber,
but the guard won't let me pass.

UNCLE
You're not missing anything, trust
me. These meetings are dreadfully
boring.

ZUKO
If I'm going to rule this nation
one day, don't you think I need to
start learning as much as I can?

UNCLE
(he considers for a beat)
Very well. But you must promise
not to speak. These old folks are
a bit sensitive, you know.

Zuko beams.

ZUKO
(bowing)
Thank you, Uncle!

Iroh brings him in, past the guard.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WAR CHAMBER - LATER

(NOTE: the Fire Lord is in the meeting, but we either don't see him, or see only artfully chosen shots that do not reveal too much of him.) A SINISTER GENERAL is in the middle of describing his plans, possibly indicating a map that shows troop movements.

SINISTER GENERAL
The Earth Kingdom defenses are concentrated here... a dangerous battalion of their strongest Earthbenders and fiercest warriors. So I am recommending the 41st division.

OLD GENERAL
But the 41st is entirely new recruits. How do you expect them to defeat a powerful Earth Kingdom battalion?

SINISTER GENERAL
(sinister smile)
I don't. They'll be used as a distraction while we mount an attack from the rear. What better to use as bait than fresh meat?

Zuko looks around the room to see the other officers nodding in approval. He can't believe no one's objecting to this. Zuko stands.

ZUKO
You can't sacrifice an entire division like that. Those soldiers love and defend our nation, how can you betray them?!

There is a sharp, awkward silence, as everyone stares at Zuko.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ZUKO'S BOAT - FURNACE ROOM - THE PRESENT

UNCLE

Zuko was right, you see... but it was not his place to speak out. And there were-- (CLEARS THROAT)-- dire consequences.

Lt. Jee and the other men look enthralled.

INT. CLIFFSIDE CAVE - SIMULTANEOUS

Aang continues telling his story. Katara has gotten a small fire going, which she tends to a bit.

KATARA

So you were upset that you were the Avatar? Why wouldn't you be excited about it?

AANG

Well, I didn't know how to feel about it. All I knew was that after I found out, everything began changing.

DISSOLVE TO:

AANG'S FLASHBACK:**EXT. AIR TEMPLE - DAY**

Out by the back wall, a few kids successfully use the air scooter technique.

AANG

Hey, not bad. You guys have been practicing!

YOUNGER KID

Not only that, we made up a game you can play with the air scooters.

AANG

Great!

Aang whips up an air sphere, but everyone just looks at him awkwardly.

AANG (cont'd)

What's going on?

OLDER KID

Now that you're the Avatar... it's
kind of an unfair advantage for
whichever team you're on.

AANG

But I'm still the same, nothing's
changed.

(awkward silent beat)

So what, I can't play?

OLDER KID

That's the only fair way.

AANG

Oh. Okay.

Aang lets his air-sphere go, and walks away, sadly.

YOUNGER KID

Sorry, Aang.

OLDER KID

Okay, now who has to have Jinju on
their team?

We reveal an awkward, gangly kid, who smiles nervously at his
prospects, and looks shiftily from side to side.

INT. AIR TEMPLE - AANG'S ROOM - DAY

Aang and Monk Gyatso play a tile game. Aang has his head in
his hand, and seems to be playing halfheartedly.

GYATSO

Very interesting move, young one.

AANG

What do you mean?

We see that Gyatso is slowly Airbending Aang's cape so that
it rises up behind him. Suddenly it drops down over Aang's
eyes, and Gyatso quickly switches two tiles.

AANG (cont'd)

Hey!

Aang laughs, but suddenly they are interrupted by the dour
monk at the door.

DOUR MONK
(disapproving)
You're playing games with him? The
Avatar should be training.

GYATSO
Aang has already trained enough for
today.

DOUR MONK
Time is short.
(to Aang)
Come with me, I must test you on
some high level techniques.

GYATSO
No. As long as I am his guardian,
I will decide when he trains... and
when he gets his butt kicked at Pai
Sho.

Aang laughs again, and the dour monk leaves disgruntled.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE PRESENT

INT. CLIFFSIDE CAVE - SIMULTANEOUS

Aang and Katara sit by the brightly glowing fire.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ZUKO'S BOAT - FURNACE ROOM - LATER

Uncle continues his story to his captivated audience.

UNCLE
After Zuko's outburst in the
meeting, the Fire Lord became very
angry with him. He said that
Prince Zuko's challenge of the
general was an act of complete
disrespect -- and there was only
one way to resolve this.

LT. JEE
Agni Kai. A fire duel.

UNCLE

That's right. Zuko looked upon the old general he had insulted, and declared that he was not afraid. -- But Zuko misunderstood...

DISSOLVE TO:

IROH'S FLASHBACK:

INT. AGNI KAI CHAMBER

We see Zuko in the chamber, kneeling, his back to his opponent. The other generals and soldiers are gathered to watch the duel.

UNCLE (V.O.)

When he turned to face his opponent, he was surprised to see it was not the general...

We see Zuko turn around.

UNCLE (V.O.) (cont'd)

Zuko had spoken out against the general's plan. But by doing so in the Fire Lord's war room, it was the Fire Lord whom he had disrespected. -- Zuko would have to duel his own father!

Fear washes over Zuko's face, and we see he is shocked and upset.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE PRESENT

INT. CLIFFSIDE CAVE - LATER

Aang and Katara face each other, the fire at their side.

AANG

Then, just when I was starting to feel better, something worse happened.

DISSOLVE TO:

AANG'S FLASHBACK:

EXT. AIR TEMPLE - DAY

Monk Gyatso is being confronted by the dour monk and the senior monk.

GYATSO

Aang needs to have freedom, and fun. He needs to grow up as a normal boy.

DOUR MONK

Humph, you can not keep protecting him from his destiny.

The senior monk speaks up.

SENIOR MONK

Gyatso, I know you mean well, but you are letting your affection for the boy cloud your judgment.

GYATSO

All I want is what is best for him.

SENIOR MONK

But what we need is what's best for the world.

There is a long pause.

SENIOR MONK (cont'd)

You and Aang must be separated. The Avatar will be sent away to the Eastern Air Temple to complete his training.

We realize Aang has been eavesdropping the whole time. He's horrified.

Off Aang's scared face...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. CLIFFSIDE CAVE - LATER**

The rain is really pouring now.

KATARA
(moved)
That's awful, Aang. I don't know
what to say...

Aang is looking down. Katara reaches out to put her hand on his arm, but he pulls away.

AANG
(outburst)
How could they do that to me?!
They wanted to take away everything
I knew and everyone I loved!

A blast of wind and spray blows in the cave, scattering a few HOT CINDERS from the fire. Katara jumps up.

KATARA
Whoa! Hot cinders...

Aang turns and faces the wall of the cave.

After a beat he turns back around.

AANG
I'm sorry I got so mad.

KATARA
You have a right to be angry after
the monks sent you away like that.

AANG
Well... that's not exactly what
happened.

DISSOLVE TO:

AANG'S FLASHBACK:**INT. AIR TEMPLE - AANG'S ROOM - LATER**

Aang looks out his window at his friends playing the air scooter game in the yard below. They are laughing and having fun.

AANG (V.O.)
I was afraid and confused. I
didn't know what to do.

Aang flops onto his mattress and buries his head in a pillow.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AIR TEMPLE - AANG'S ROOM - LATER

There is a knock, and then the door creaks open. Gyatso peeks his head in.

GYATSO

Aang? I'm not going to let them
take you away from me -- Aang?

He realizes Aang's not there. He sees a note, picks it up, and reads it. His face falls.

EXT. OCEAN - LATER

Aang gets Appa to accelerate through the blinding greyness.

AANG (V.O.)

I never saw Gyatso again...

When they suddenly emerge, they are in the middle of the driving storm. Aang and Appa are pelted by rain and wind in the middle of the storm. Aang SCREAMS as the tempest spins them around like a leaf in a blender.

Aang and Appa crash into the raging ocean. They struggle to stay afloat in the towering waves, but the waves' surging force quickly pulls them under.

We cut from the chaotic close shots of Aang and Appa struggling to a very wide shot, in which we can see the Avatar-state-induced glowing bubble forming under water.

A blinding flash of light as Aang wakes up to see Katara staring down at him.

AANG (V.O.) (cont'd)

Next thing I knew, I was waking up
in your arms after you found me in
the iceberg.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE PRESENT

INT. CLIFFSIDE CAVE

Aang has finished telling his story. The fire is now much dimmer and CRACKLING, as the last of their wood is almost spent.

KATARA

You ran away.

Aang nods.

AANG

And then the Fire Nation attacked our temple. My people needed me and I wasn't there to help...

KATARA

You don't know what would have--

AANG

The world needed me and I wasn't there to help!

KATARA

Aang--

AANG

The fisherman was right. I did turn my back on the world.

KATARA

You're being too hard on yourself.

Aang looks away, feeling guilty.

KATARA (cont'd)

Even if you did run away, I think it was meant to be. If you had stayed, you would have been killed along with all the other Airbenders.

AANG

You don't know that.

KATARA

I know it's meant to be this way. The world needs you now. You give people hope.

Aang looks up at her, not entirely convinced.

MOMO

(sympathetically CHIRPS)

INT. ZUKO'S BOAT - FURNACE ROOM

Uncle continues his story.

UNCLE

When Prince Zuko saw that it was
his father who had come to duel
him, he begged for mercy.

DISSOLVE TO:

IROH'S FLASHBACK:

INT. AGNI KAI CHAMBER

Surprised and confused, we see a side of Zuko we have never
seen. The Fire Lord is silhouetted against the background.

ZUKO

(pleading)

Please, father! I only had the
Fire Nation's best interests at
heart... I'm sorry I spoke out of
turn...

FIRE LORD

You will fight for your honor.

Zuko falls to his knees, bowing and begging.

ZUKO

I meant you no disrespect... I am
your loyal son...

FIRE LORD

Rise and fight, Prince Zuko!

ZUKO

I won't fight you!

FIRE LORD

You will learn respect, and
suffering will be your teacher.

As the Fire Lord executes a powerful Firebending move, we see
a shot of the INTENSE FLAMES. We see Uncle Iroh, illuminated
by the flames, look away in horror.

UNCLE (V.O.)

I looked away.

On Uncle's pained face, we

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ZUKO'S BOAT - FURNACE ROOM

Uncle wincing, as he finishes the story. Lt. Jee and the others are moved.

LT. JEE

I always thought... that Prince Zuko was in a training accident.

UNCLE

It was no accident. After the duel, the Fire Lord said that by refusing to fight Zuko had shown shameful weakness. As punishment, he was banished, and sent to capture the Avatar. Only then, could he return with his honor.

LT. JEE

So that's why he's so obsessed. Capturing the Avatar is the only chance he has of things returning to normal.

UNCLE

Things will never return to normal. But the important thing is, the Avatar gives Zuko hope.

A beat as this sinks in.

INT. ZUKO'S BOAT - ZUKO'S QUARTERS - SIMULTANEOUS

Zuko sits in front of his candles, meditating. He opens his eyes and looks down in a moment of reflection.

We see quick shots of happier times, training in a field, his father's hand on his shoulder, a close-up of young Zuko's unscared face.

DISSOLVE TO:

A close-up of Zuko's now scared face, grimacing.

Then suddenly LIGHTNING STRIKES the ship, causing a dramatic EXPLOSION.

INT. CLIFFSIDE CAVE - SIMULTANEOUS

We see the same lightning flash, and hear LOUD THUNDER a second or two later. Suddenly someone is at the entrance of the cave...

FISHERMAN'S WIFE
Help! Oh, please, help!

Katara rushes to the woman, and helps her inside.

KATARA
It's okay, you're safe.

FISHERMAN'S WIFE
But my husband isn't!

KATARA
(worried)
What do you mean? Where's Sokka?!

FISHERMAN'S WIFE
They haven't returned! They should
have been back by now... and this
storm is becoming a typhoon!
They're caught out at sea...

Aang stands up.

AANG
I'm going to find them.

KATARA
I'm going with you.

FISHERMAN'S WIFE
I'm staying here!

AANG
(to fisherman's wife)
We'll be back soon... I promise.

Aang and Katara climb aboard Appa and fly out into the raging storm.

EXT. ZUKO'S BOAT - SIMULTANEOUS

All hands are on deck now, including Zuko. The ship is being tossed violently in the typhoon -- think "The Perfect Storm". Everyone has to yell above the powerful wind.

ZUKO
(to Lt. Jee, yelling)
Where were we hit?

LT. JEE
I don't know!

Uncle points to the control tower, which is badly damaged by the lightning.

UNCLE

Look!

We can see the HELMSMAN, barely hanging on for his life in the wreckage of the tower.

ZUKO

The helmsman!

Zuko and Lt. Jee help each other climb the damaged control tower, while the injured helmsman dangles above. The ship is badly tossed.

Uncle stands below. LIGHTNING STRIKES, but in an incredible Firebending move, Uncle DIVERTS the lightning away from the ship.

The helmsman SLIPS, just as Zuko gets close enough to grab him and prevent his fall.

EXT. STORMY SEAS - SIMULTANEOUS

Aang and Katara fly through the pummeling rain, above huge, crashing waves.

KATARA

Where are they?!

They look around, occasionally given illumination by flashes of lightning. Suddenly, a MONSTROUS wave rises up out of the water before them, like a wall.

AANG

Come on, Appa!

They bank upwards, trying to climb above the monstrous wave before it comes crashing down on them. Again, the perfect reference is the final wave from "The Perfect Storm". They climb and climb as the wave does too -- but just as they are near the top, it CRESTS -- and the wave CRASHES into Appa

Appa punches through the wave, they made it through safely.

There are TWO FLASHES of lightning, and Aang sees a fishing boat silhouetted in the near distance.

AANG (cont'd)

The boat! There!

EXT. ZUKO'S BOAT - SIMULTANEOUS

Zuko is back on the deck with the Lt. Jee, Uncle, and the helmsman. In a flash of lightning, they see Appa silhouetted against the sky.

ZUKO
The Avatar!

LT. JEE
What do you want to do, sir?

He turns and looks at his Uncle. After a beat...

ZUKO
Let him go. We need to get this ship to safety.

UNCLE
Then we must head directly into the Eye of the Storm.

The crew looks worried. Uncle smiles knowingly.

EXT. FISHERMAN'S SHIP - SIMULTANEOUS

The fisherman and Sokka cling to some ropes on the boat.

SOKKA
I'm too young to die!

CRUSTY FISHERMAN
I'm not but I still don't wanna!

Appa flies in and hovers just above the boat like a rescue helicopter. Aang jumps off of Appa onto the boat's deck and goes to help the fisherman and Sokka. But just as Aang reaches them, lightning strikes the ship, breaking the mast. The mast is about to fall on them, when Aang uses Waterbending to create jets of water that split the mast as it falls -- it divides and lands on either side of Sokka and the fisherman.

Sokka loops the rope around his waist and the fisherman's waist. Aang takes the end of the rope and jumps up into Appa's saddle. He and Katara pull them up onto Appa, the fisherman spitting the water out of his mouth comically.

Just when the rescue seems to be a success, a HUGE wave rises (we see the boat dramatically rise past Appa), and takes them all under.

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

As they float slowly downward, Aang's eyes and tattoos glow, as he goes into the Avatar state. Just as a hundred years ago, an AIR BUBBLE envelops everyone under water, and they begin to rise to the surface inside of it.

EXT. ZUKO'S BOAT - SIMULTANEOUS

They are in the eerie eye of the storm. All is quiet and still, while all around them is a wall of storm. Zuko turns to his Uncle.

ZUKO
(humbly)
Uncle... I am sorry.

UNCLE
Your apology is accepted.

Suddenly, next to their ship, Appa comes straight out of the water. He flies straight up through the eye. Zuko watches without a word.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLIFFSIDE CAVE - LATER

Aang and company arrive back at the cave with the Fisherman. The Fisherman's wife runs over to him.

FISHERMAN'S WIFE
Ohh, you're alive!

She embraces him, then turns naggy again.

FISHERMAN'S WIFE (cont'd)
You owe this boy an apology!

AANG
He doesn't have to apologize.

CRUSTY FISHERMAN
What if instead of an apology, I
give him a free fish and we call it
even.

AANG
(smiles)
Actually, I don't eat meat.

CRUSTY FISHERMAN
Fish ain't meat!

Sokka walks up to the fisherman and holds out his hand.

SOKKA
Seriously, you're still going to
pay me, right?

The fisherman drops a fish into Sokka's open arms.

SOKKA (cont'd)
Ugggh!

Aang turns to Katara. In the background, the wife continues
NAGGING the fisherman to apologize.

AANG
Katara, I think you were right
before. I'm done dwelling on the
past.

KATARA
Really?

AANG
I can't make guesses about how
things would have turned out if I
hadn't run away. I'm here now and
I'm going to make the most of it.

KATARA
I don't think you're going to have
those nightmares anymore.

The crusty fisherman approaches Aang.

CRUSTY FISHERMAN
(heartfelt)
If you weren't here now... well, I
guess I wouldn't be either. Thank
you for saving my life, Avatar.

Aang looks down modestly.

SOKKA
Do you hear that? It stopped
raining.

Everyone listens for a second to the silence... they walk out
onto the cave's ledge and into the sun. Appa joins the gang
and shakes the water off of his back like a dog, drenching
everyone. They all laugh happily. Life is good.

END OF SHOW